

Additional changes have been made to the independent claims to clarify certain terms used therein. These changes were made solely to improve the readability and form of the claims.

Claims 1-26 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,664,243 to Okada et al. ("Okada"). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection, since the claimed invention enjoys the benefit of a 35 U.S.C. 119 foreign priority date of at least June 23, 1995, whereas the 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) date of the Okada document is June 6, 1996. Verified English language translations of three foreign priority documents (07-157713, 07-0157668, and 07-157284) relating to the claimed invention are submitted herewith, in accordance with M.P.E.P. Section 201.15. In view of the above, the Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) rejection based on Okada.

Claims 1-26 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,710,954 to Inoue ("Inoue"). Claim 24 was also rejected as being unpatentable under 35 U.S.C. § 103 based on the Inoue patent. Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections for the following reasons.

A first exemplary embodiment of the present invention pertains to an image shooting apparatus comprising: a silver salt picture shooting section having a silver salt picture recording function and a silver salt information recording function; a video picture shooting section; a video signal recording section for recording a video signal obtained by the video picture shooting section and video information on the recording medium; a video signal reproduction section for reproducing the video signal and video information from the recording medium; an electric display device for displaying the video picture and video information reproduced by the video signal reproduction section; a shooting information provider for outputting various items of information as to shooting; and an information input section for inputting the various items of information into the shooting information provider.

According to the above construction, it is possible to record silver salt information when a silver salt picture is recorded, and it is also possible to record video information when a video signal is recorded. The silver salt information thus inputted during recording can be displayed on the electric display device. For example, when silver salt picture shooting is performed during video movie shooting, the thus shot image can be displayed as a still image during reproduction of the video, and the reproduction conditions can be varied. Note page 5, line 22 et seq. of the present specification.

Aspects of the above-noted first embodiment are encompassed by pending independent claim 1.

The embodiment shown in Fig. 17 of Inoue includes a video recording unit 125. Column 23, lines 63 et seq. of Inoue states that a moving image can be recorded on a video tape simultaneously with recording on a silver salt film. More specifically, when a moving image having the best composition to be recorded on the film is obtained in recording an object, the release button of the camera is fully pressed. At this time, an image memory 111 stores an object image. Figs. 8 and 9 shows other embodiments which pertain to the entry of post-processing information.

Inoue does not disclose or suggest the invention recited in claim 1. For instance, Inoue does not disclose or suggest at least the following features recited in claim 1:

- a video signal recording section for recording a video signal obtained by the video picture shooting section and video information on the recording medium, the video information relating to the shooting of the video picture;
- a video signal reproduction section for reproducing the video signal and video information from the recording medium;
- an electric display device for displaying the video picture and video information reproduced by the video signal reproduction section;

In Inoue, for instance, there is no indication that video information is recorded on the recording unit, and that this information is reproduced and displayed. Fig. 7 shows

information which is displayed in conjunction with an image, but there is no indication that this information is retrieved from a memory, such as unit 125. Accordingly, this claim is believed to patentably distinguish over the Inoue patent.

A second exemplary embodiment of the present invention pertains to an image shooting apparatus, comprising: a silver salt picture shooting section having a silver salt picture recording function and a silver salt information recording function; a video picture shooting section; a video signal recording section for recording a video signal obtained by the video picture shooting section and video information; a silver salt film individual identification number/frame number provider for outputting an individual identification number and a frame number of a silver salt film used as a recording medium for the silver salt picture shooting section; and an index data recording section provided separately from the video signal recording section for recording index data which is an aggregate of shooting information during silver salt shooting.

According to the above construction, it is possible to record silver salt information when a silver salt picture is recorded, and it is also possible to record video information when a video signal is recorded. Since silver salt information thus inputted during recording is recorded in the index data recording section, the silver salt information can easily be retrieved by searching the index data recording portion. Accordingly, it is not necessary to search a film or a recording medium from end to end in order to retrieve silver salt information. Note page 6, line 22 et seq. of the present specification.

This aspect of the invention is encompassed by independent claim 8.

Inoue recites, in column 12, line 44 et seq., that a screen subjected to post-processing may be searched and found on the image monitor 21. The magnetic reading circuit 31 finds a frame having the same frame number as that of the screen read on the image monitor 21 while searching information on the magnetic recording layer of the film.

Inoue does not disclose or suggest the invention recited in claim 8. For instance, Inoue does not disclose or suggest at least the following features recited in claim 8:

a silver salt film individual identification number/frame number provider for outputting an individual identification number and a frame number of a silver salt film used as a recording medium for the silver salt picture shooting section; and  
an index data recording section provided separately from the video signal recording section for recording index data which is an aggregate of shooting information during silver salt shooting

Inoue apparently stores information pertaining to frame data. However, there is at least no suggestion that an index data recording section is provided separately from a video signal recording section, wherein this index data is an aggregate of shooting information during silver salt shooting. Further, there is no disclosure in Inoue of outputting an identification number of a silver salt film. Accordingly, this claim is believed to patentably distinguish over the Inoue patent.

A third exemplary embodiment of the present invention pertains to an image shooting apparatus, comprising a silver salt picture shooting section including a silver salt picture recording section and a silver salt information recording section; a video picture shooting section; a video signal recording section for recording a video signal obtained by the video picture shooting section and video information; a silver salt film individual identification number/frame number provider for outputting an individual identification number and a frame number of a silver salt film used as a recording medium for the silver salt picture shooting section, wherein the silver salt information recording section records an individual identification number outputted from the silver salt film individual identification number/frame number provider onto the silver salt film, and wherein the video information recording section records an individual identification number and a frame number outputted from the silver salt film individual identification number/frame number provider into an image signal corresponding to the individual identification number and the frame number.

According to the above construction, it is possible to record silver salt information when a silver salt picture is recorded, and it is also possible to record video information when a video signal is recorded. Simultaneously with recording, a silver salt film individual identification number and a frame number are additionally inputted. This makes

it possible to record the individual identification number on the silver salt film, so that images taken by the still camera can be observed as image signals immediately or in a certain time lag after shooting, and so that information representing relationships between the still pictures and the video picture can be recorded as a database after shooting. Note page 7, line 14 et seq. of the present specification.

This aspect of the invention is encompassed by pending independent claim 19.

As noted above, Inoue recites, in column 12, line 44 et seq., that a screen subjected to post-processing may be searched and found on the image monitor 21. The magnetic reading circuit 31 finds a frame having the same frame number as that of the screen read on the image monitor 21 while searching information on the magnetic recording layer of the film.

Inoue does not disclose or suggest the invention recited in claim 19. For instance, Inoue does not disclose or suggest at least the following features recited in claim 19:

a silver salt film individual identification number/frame number provider for outputting an individual identification number and a frame number of a silver salt film used as a recording medium for the silver salt picture shooting section,

wherein said silver salt information recording section records an individual identification number outputted from the silver salt film individual identification number/frame number provider onto said silver salt film, and

wherein said video information recording section records an individual identification number and a frame number outputted from the silver salt film individual identification number/frame number provider into an image signal corresponding to said individual identification number and said frame number

Although Inoue apparently stores frame number information, there is no indication that Inoue also records an individual identification number which is outputted from a silver salt film individual identification number/frame number provider. Accordingly, this claim is believed to patentably distinguish over the Inoue patent.

The dependent claims, including the newly added dependent claims, are allowable at least by virtue of their dependency on the above-identified independent claims. Moreover, these claims recite additional subject matter which is not disclosed or suggested by the documents taken either alone or in combination.

For at least the above-stated reasons, the Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the § 102 and § 103 rejections based on Inoue.

All objections and rejections raised in the Office Action having been addressed, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance and such allowance is respectfully solicited. The Examiner is urged to contact the undersigned if any issues remain unresolved by this Amendment.

Respectfully submitted,

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